

ΦΡΟΝΙΤΗ ΖΕΥΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΗΡ

Mythology



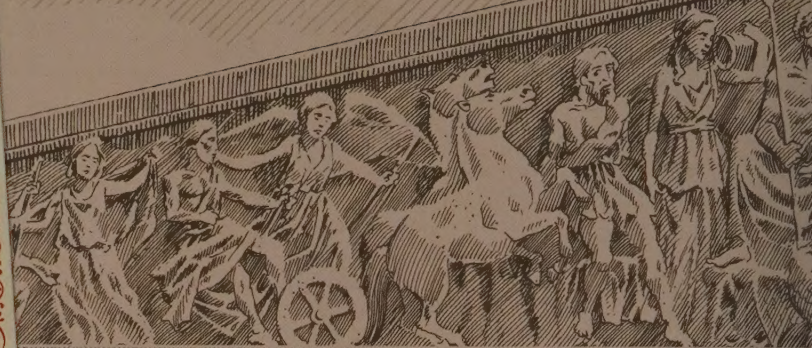
ΠΟΛΛΩΝ ΗΡΑ ΗΦΑΙΣΤΟΣ



TRAVEL TO GREECE

&
THE GREEK ISLANDS

VISIT THE
LAND OF GODS AND HEROES
FOLLOW THESEUS, HERACLES, & JASON
BRING THE LEGENDS TO LIFE!



*I'm longing to get to
Greece and start my
search for antiquities.
Perhaps I shall find
something of interest to
Mr. Patakis for his new
museum in Athens.*

O MUSES,
Who Sing of a World Long Gone,
Of Mighty Heroes, Olympian Gods,
Of Terrible Monsters and Fabulous Beasts,
Help Me to Tell of These Wonderful Things,
For I Have Come to the Land of Greece
To Speak of Her Myths and Her Mystery.
—Lady Hestia Evans, Athens, 1825



Lady Hestia Evans
IN ALBANIAN DISGUISE

Dear John,

3rd April, 1826

*I hear that you are off to Greece! I hoped my tales
about Lord Byron might inspire you. I am sending you
a copy of my book about Greek myths. You can write notes
in the margins, and we can go through them when you
get back. I have one request: if you find anything of value,
please send it to my friend Mr. Patakis in Athens.
Apparently, too many antiquities are being taken out of
the country to add to private collections. As Mr. P. plans
to start a museum there, I think that would be the best
place for them, don't you? Anyway, enjoy the book!*

Hestia

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

An old damaged copy of a student's edition of Lady Hestia Evans's *Mythology* was recently lent to the publisher. In addition to various inserts and newspaper cuttings from the period, it contained notes purporting to come from a certain John Oro, gentleman traveller and collector of antiquities, who apparently attempted to use the book to contact the ancient Greek gods for his own selfish gain. The publisher hopes that this facsimile (whilst lacking the extraordinary metallic content of the original) will provide sufficient warning to anyone foolish enough to try to follow in his footsteps.

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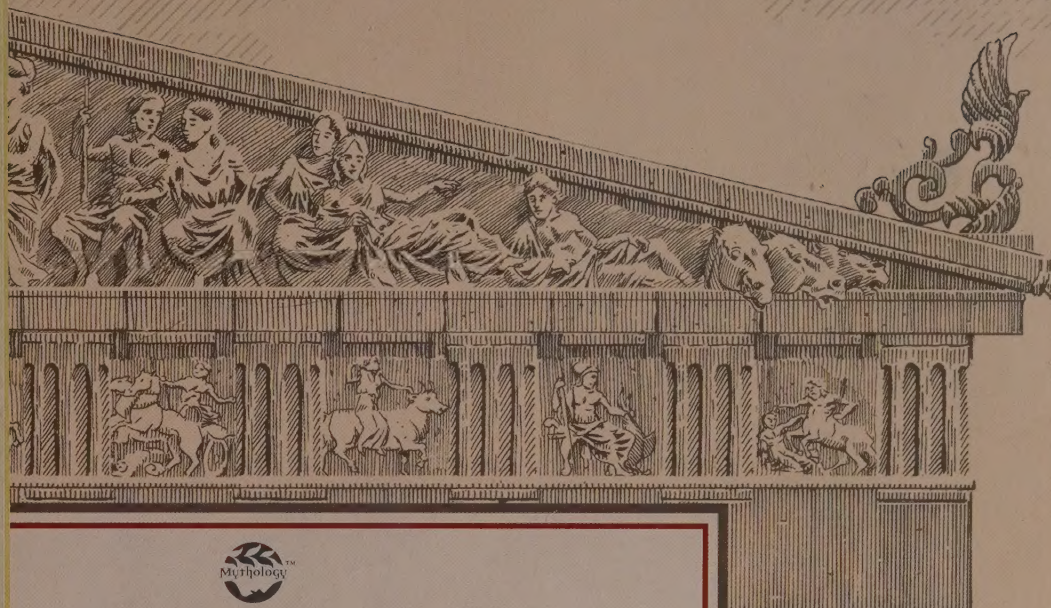
*How inspired I am
by Lady Hestia's
descriptions of
ancient Greece and
its historic wonders.
Who knows what one
might find amongst
ruins like these?*

CANDLEWICK PRESS
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To the Finder of this Book

*A Grim and Terrible
Warning*



THE GODS, HEROES, AND MONSTERS
OF ANCIENT GREECE

MYTHOLOGY

LADY HESTIA EVANS

STUDENT'S EDITION

WITH AMPLE SPACE FOR
MARGINAL NOTES & OBSERVATIONS

ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS PLATES AND MAPS

CONTENTS: AN INTRODUCTION TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY – A MAP OF ANCIENT GREECE
THE CREATION OF THE GODS – MONSTERS AND MYTHICAL BEASTS – THE ORIGINS OF
MANKIND – ZEUS AND HERA – POSEIDON AND THE SEA – HADES AND THE UNDERWORLD
ARES, APHRODITE, AND HEPHAESTUS – APOLLO, HERMES, AND DIONYSUS – ATHENA,
ARTEMIS, AND HESTIA – HERACLES AND THE GREEK HEROES – THE WAR AGAINST TROY

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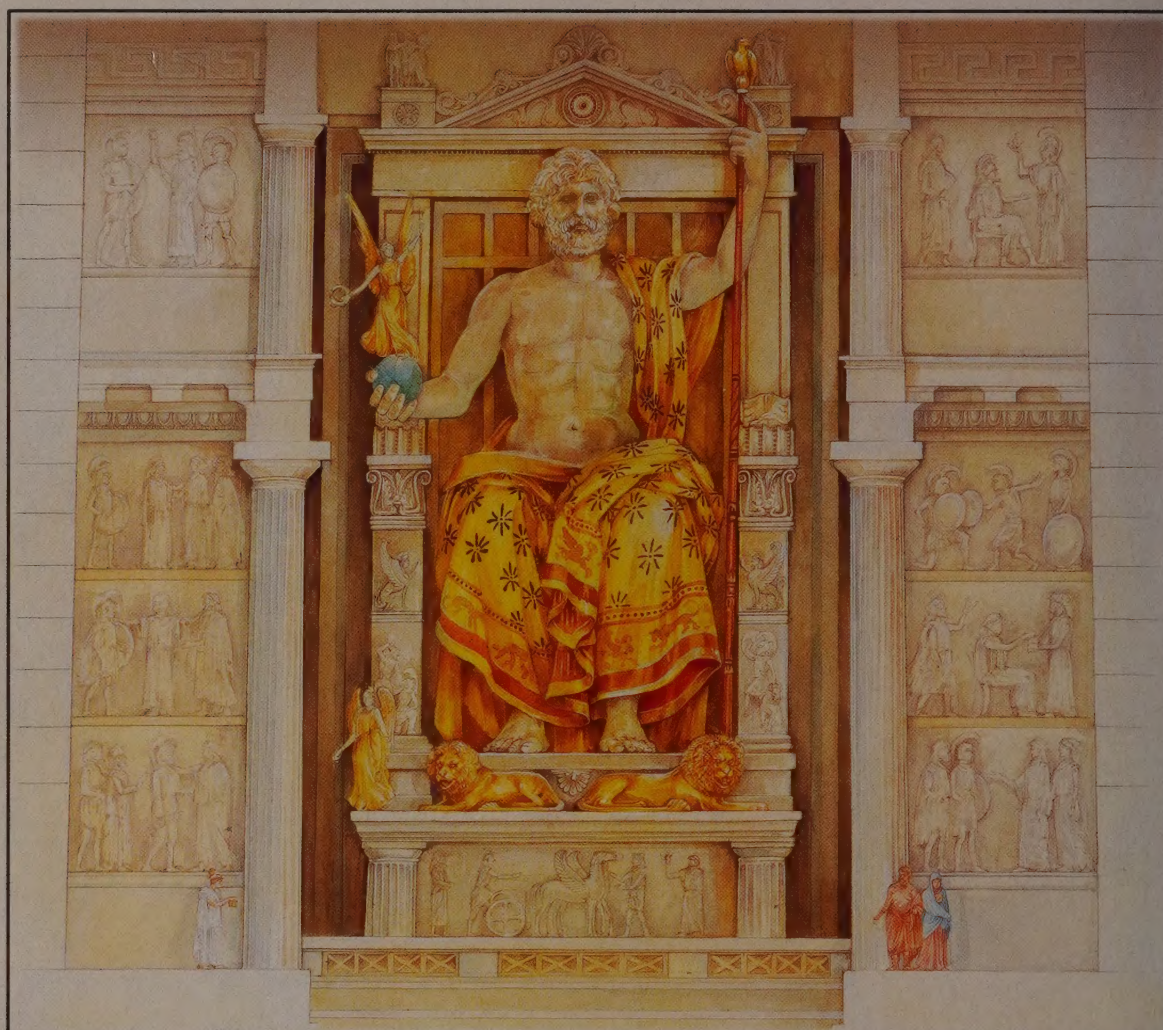
1825



GREEK GOLD

AN INTRODUCTION TO MYTHOLOGY

OF ALL THE MYTHS of gods and heroes, the tales of the ancient Greeks still seem as fresh as when Homer first sang of Troy, when people spoke in whispers about the misfortunes of Midas, and when young warriors were inspired by the exploits of Heracles. It was a time when, dwelling in their crystal palaces atop Mount Olympus, the immortal gods were often said to meddle in the affairs of ordinary human beings.



THE STATUE OF ZEUS IN THE TEMPLE AT OLYMPIA



A BOOK BY BYRON

*June 4th, Bay of Biscay:
I am taking these books to
Greece: 1. Mythology, Lady
Westia Evans; 2. Jason and
the Argonauts, Apollonius;
3. Childe Harold's Pilgrimage,
Byron; 4. Metamorphoses, Ovid;
5 & 6. The Iliad & The Odyssey,
Homer; 7 & 8. Theogony &
Works and Days, Hesiod*

TALES OF GODS AND HEROES

Long ago, the people of Greece believed that the world was ruled over by a group of powerful immortals known as the gods. Tales of these gods, such as Zeus, Athena, and Poseidon, and of famous demigods and heroes, like Heracles, Jason, and Theseus, are called myths. Nowadays, we can find out about the Olympian gods through the writings

of numerous ancient Greeks, including Hesiod, Apollonius, and Homer. These writers left us a rich store of myths in their books. Hesiod, for example, writes of the creation of the gods and of the war waged by Zeus, the king of the gods, against his father, Cronus, for control of the heavens, Earth, underworld, and sea.

THE BASICS OF ANCIENT GREEK

MYTHS IN ART

The ancient Greeks painted scenes from their myths on pots, vases, and other objects, so another way to find out about the Greek myths is from their works of art that have survived. The vase below shows a scene from a story about Dionysus, the god of wine. Captured by wicked pirates, he magically made vines sprout from the mast of the pirates' ship and twine around it. This terrified the pirates, who all leapt into the sea. As they leapt, Dionysus transformed them all into dolphins, and they swam away.



DIONYSUS AND THE PIRATES

THE ROMAN LEGACY

The Romans were fascinated by Greek mythology and took many Greek works of art back to Rome. And while few original Greek statues survive, many Roman copies still exist. The picture below is of a copy of a statue of Athena, the goddess of wisdom, who sprang fully armed from the head of her father, Zeus. The hero Odysseus, hounded by the rage of the sea god, Poseidon, was often guided by her wisdom.



A STATUE OF ATHENA

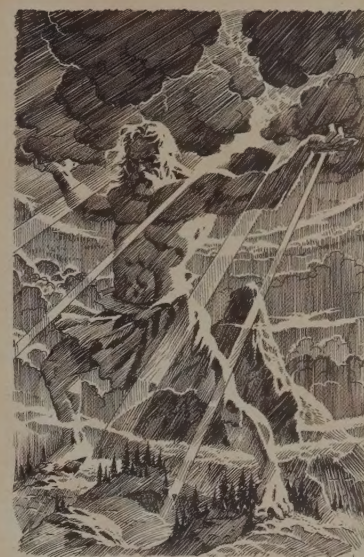
MYTHS IN RUINS

Two thousand years ago, Greece was full of temples to the gods decorated with statues and friezes, often with mythological themes. But alas! Now they all lie in ruins, crumbling over long ages and scarred by war.



AN IMPRESSION OF ANCIENT ATHENS

It would have been magnificent to see Athens in its ancient prime, with the Parthenon, the temple of Athena, standing high on the Acropolis. Damaged by war and robbed of its treasures, even in ruins it is a powerful reminder of a time when people believed the gods were real presences to be worshipped and feared.



ATLAS'S PUNISHMENT

June 10th, near the Atlas Mountains: Zeus made Atlas hold up the sky until Perseus used the Gorgon's head to turn him into a mountain range.



MIDAS'S GOLDEN TOUCH

June 12th, off Malta: I started to read the story of Midas in Ovid's book. Dionysus rewarded him with the power to turn things into gold. That is a gift I should like myself!



ZEUS

Zeus, King of the Gods

ATHENA

Athena, Goddess of Wisdom

HEPHAESTUS

Hephaestus, God of Fire

ARTEMIS

Artemis, Goddess of the Hunt

Italy

APULIA

Croton

THE IONIAN SEA

Straits of Messina

Sicily

Mt. Etna
Syracuse

Malta

My Route

THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

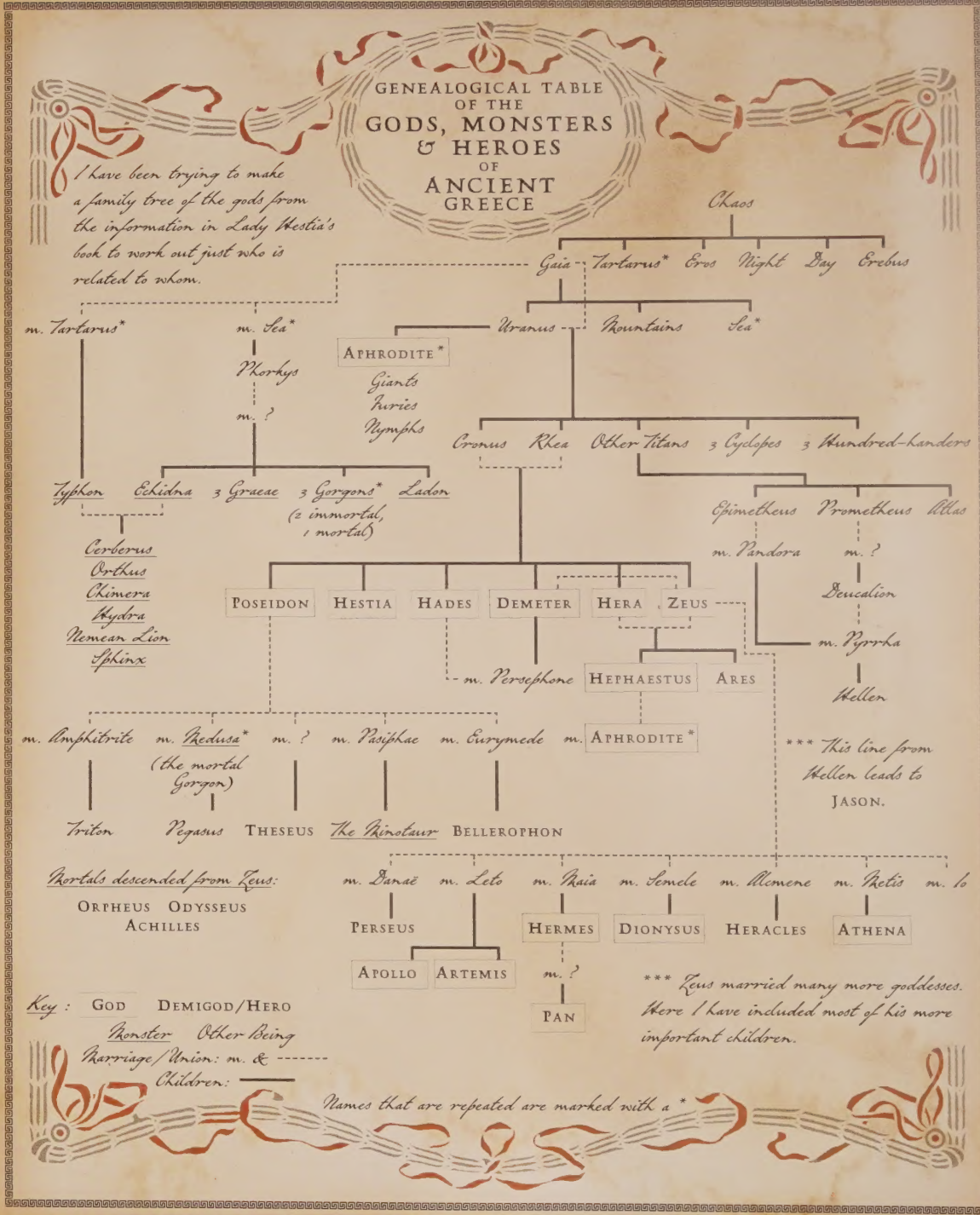
DIONYSUS

Dionysus, God of Wine

POSEIDON

Poseidon, God of the Sea

Map
OF
ANCIENT
Greece



THE OLYMPIANS AND THE WORLD

ANCIENT GREECE was known not as Greece to the people who lived there but as *Hellas*. Their view of the world was based on what they knew of the Mediterranean Sea and the surrounding lands. And just as they had mythological explanations of almost everything in their day-to-day lives, they also had detailed mythological descriptions of the land to which they thought all souls went after they died, as well as many stories about the origins of the sun, the moon, and even the stars in the sky.



THE UNDERWORLD

According to Hesiod, the ancient Greeks believed that if an anvil were dropped from Heaven, it would take it nine days to reach the Earth. Beneath the Earth lay Hades, the kingdom of the dead, which was divided into several different regions and had a number of rivers running through it. After being ferried across the River Styx and receiving judgement, heroes and righteous people would obtain their reward in the Elysian Fields, while the wicked would be punished forever in the fiery regions of Tartarus, which was, according to the *Iliad*, a further nine-day anvil fall from the main areas of Hades.



THE ANCIENT GREEK WORLD

The ancient Greeks held a view of the world that was firmly based in the Mediterranean. They thought that the centre of the world was Delphi. To the far west of the world lay the Straits of Gibraltar, while to the far east lay India. To the north were the cold lands of the Hyperboreans, and to the south, the land of Libya. They believed that all these lands were surrounded by an encircling sea, which they called Oceanus.

Astrological Constellations



ORION

CENTAURUS

DRACO

LEO

Artemis fell in love with Orion and, as moon goddess, stopped shining. Apollo tricked her into killing him. In grief, she placed him among the stars.

Chiron was a wise centaur who acted as a tutor to two famous Greek heroes, Heracles and Jason. When he died, he too was placed in the heavens.

According to most myths, the Draco is Ladon, who guarded the apples of the Hesperides. Hera placed him in the sky after Heracles slew him.

Leo is the Nemean Lion that the hero Heracles slew for the first of his twelve labours. After the lion was defeated, Heracles used his pelt for armour.

THE CREATION OF THE GODS

AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, there was nothing but the yawning void of Chaos. But from Chaos came Gaia, the Earth; Tartarus, the place below the Earth; and Eros, the god of love. Next came Night, Day, and Erebus, the dark light of Tartarus. Gaia gave birth to Uranus, the sky, and to the mountains and the sea. She married Uranus, and their children were the Hundred-handers, the Cyclopes, and the mighty Titans.

THE TITANS

Uranus hated and feared his Titan children. As each one was born, he locked them away deep in Tartarus, so that they might never see daylight. He delighted in his evil, but his wife, Gaia, longed for a way to save them. She created a sickle of adamant and gave it to

Cronus, the youngest and most terrible Titan, who set an ambush for his father. Cronus attacked Uranus unawares and defeated him. As Uranus's substance dripped down onto the Earth, it created the Giants, the Furies, the Nymphs, and Aphrodite.

THE GODS

If one looks at a picture of Mount Olympus, it is possible to imagine how huge the Titans really were, for that vast mountain was merely the throne of Cronus. And it wasn't long before Cronus began to act in exactly the same way that his father had. He married Rhea, his sister, and she gave birth to the gods Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, Poseidon, and Zeus. But as each god was born, Cronus swallowed them, for Gaia and Uranus had warned him that he, too, was fated to be defeated by his own children. Rhea, like Gaia before her, despaired for her offspring. So when her youngest child, Zeus, was born, she hid him away in a cave on Mount Dicte in Crete. She wrapped a rock in baby clothes and gave it to Cronus to swallow in the young god's place.

Zeus vowed to take revenge on his father. When he grew up, he made Cronus vomit up first the rock and then all of his brothers and sisters. He then led the gods in a furious war against the wicked Titans. The gods were helped by the Hundred-handers and the one-eyed Cyclopes, whom Zeus had freed from Tartarus. Zeus threw bolts that flashed with thunder and lightning, while the Hundred-handers hurled massive boulders, the sea boiled, and the Earth itself burst into flame. Finally, after a war that lasted ten years, Zeus drove Cronus and the Titans from the heavens. He cast them down into the darkest pit of Tartarus and bound them with such strong bonds that they would never rise up and challenge him or the other gods again.



THE WAR OF GODS

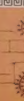


SCYLLA & CHARYBDIS

June 14th, Malta: The Straits of Messina lie between Italy and Sicily. Here, two monsters lurked: Scylla plucked sailors alive from the decks, while Charybdis sucked whole ships to their doom. I wonder if there is any truth in such tales.

June 15th: Having read that the gods drew lots, I decided to draw lots to see which god might help me find the best antiquities. I drew Zeus.

DOMAINS OF THE GODS



THE GODS DRAW LOTS

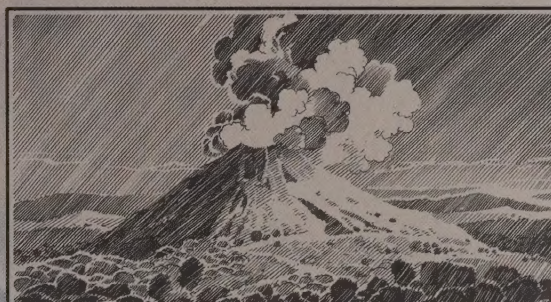
Having made themselves rulers of the universe, the gods drew lots to decide upon their dominions. Zeus, who became the king of the gods, drew the sky and all the distant regions of the heavens. Poseidon drew the sea, becoming lord of all the creatures that lived there. Their brother Hades drew Tartarus, the dark underworld far below the Earth, where he ruled over the souls of the dead and guarded the prisoners that Zeus had condemned to eternal punishment. No god became ruler of the Earth itself, for she was the common ground of all.



THE BIRTH OF APHRODITE

APHRODITE

Not all of the Olympian gods were the children of Cronus. Some say that Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was the child of Zeus and a goddess named Dione. But others insist that, as the most beautiful of all goddesses, Aphrodite was born from the foam of the sea after the defeat of Uranus. As she walked on the beaches of Kithira and Cyprus, grass sprang to life under her feet, and beautiful flowers began to bloom.



MOUNT ETNA

THE ENEMIES OF ZEUS

With the Titans defeated, Typhon, or Typhoeus, an enormous hundred-headed dragon, rose up, roaring and hissing, to challenge the might of Zeus. But the angry god soon vanquished Typhon and hurled him down into Tartarus to join the Titans. Zeus and the gods then had to face one final enemy: the Giants. These brutal creatures piled mountains one on top of another in an effort to attack the heavens. Zeus defeated them too, burying them deep in the Earth from which they had been born. Legend has it that Zeus even imprisoned one of them beneath Mount Etna, a Sicilian volcano that still spews forth lava whenever he writhes in rage.



RHEA FOOLS CRONUS

*June 16th, still at Malta:
I have decided that the best way to search for relics would be to visit places Lady Westia mentions in her book. I shall take a ferry to Crete.*



THE CAVE ON MOUNT DICTE

June 30th, Mount Dicte, Crete: I found a guide who agreed to take me to the cave where Rhea hid Zeus as a baby. The guide grew upset when I took out a small pick and started poking about for relics, so I had to stop.



A HARPY



A SIREN



A FURY



THE GRAEAE

MONSTERS AND MYTHICAL BEASTS

AS WELL AS BELIEVING in the Olympian gods, the ancient Greeks believed the world was populated with terrible monsters and fabulous mythical beasts. Most of these creatures were relatives of the gods or Titans. The Gorgons, for example, were three savage sisters. Descendants of Gaia and the sea, they had wings of gold and snakes for hair. Only one, Medusa, was mortal, and all who looked upon her were turned to stone.



THE HERO PERSEUS FIGHTING MEDUSA

PERSEUS AND THE GORGONS

Only one hero was brave enough to face the Gorgons: the demigod Perseus. He was the child of Danaë and Zeus. The story goes that Perseus and his mother were cast into the sea in a chest by a wicked king named Acrisius. The chest landed at Seriphos, where King Polydectes fell in love with Danaë and wanted to get rid of Perseus. When Perseus boasted that he could fetch him Medusa's head, the king was delighted. Perseus could not achieve his boast until he was helped by Hermes and Athena, who gave him a scythe and shield. They led him to the

Graeae, three crones with one eye and one tooth between them, who were the Gorgons' sisters. Perseus stole the eye and tooth to make them tell him where the Gorgons were. They also told him how to find three nymphs, who lent him a cap of invisibility, a purse, and winged sandals. He flew invisibly to the Gorgons and fought Medusa by looking at her reflection in his shield. He cut off Medusa's head and placed it in the purse. Then he returned to Seriphos, where he turned Polydectes and his wicked court to stone.

July 8th, leaving Crete: I have decided to visit western Greece before heading on to Athens. That way, I hope to already have found some relics to offer Mr. Patakis for his museum.

A thought: if I start to believe Zeus is real and is helping me to find relics, shouldn't I start believing the Greek monsters are real, too?

MONSTERS

Many ancient Greek monsters looked part human. The Cyclopes, for example, who made Zeus's famous thunderbolt, looked like giant humans with only one eye each. The centaurs were a race of beings that had a man's torso on a horse's body. Some, like Chiron, were wise teachers, but most were warlike. They were defeated with the help of Theseus, the Athenian hero who also slew the bull-headed Minotaur in the Labyrinth of Crete.



A MENAGERIE OF MONSTERS

THE SPHINX

There were few monsters as intelligent as the Sphinx. With the face of a woman, the body of a lion, and the wings of a bird, it terrorised the city of Thebes, strangling anyone who could not answer its riddle: "What goes on four legs in the morning, two at noon, and three in the evening?" The hero Oedipus came up with the answer: "Man." Oedipus

realised that the Sphinx was comparing a man's life to a day. In the morning of life, when a man is a baby, he crawls on his hands and feet, making "four legs." In the middle of life, when he is an adult, he walks on two legs. And in the evening of life, when he is old, he uses a cane, making "three legs." Having been defeated, the Sphinx destroyed itself.



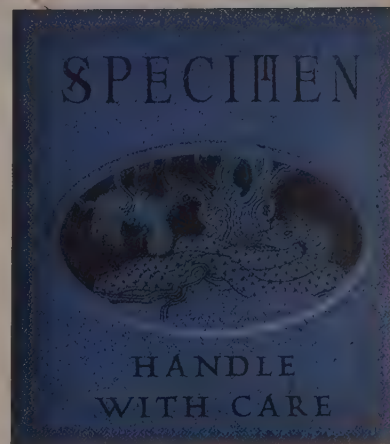
OEDIPUS AND THE SPHINX

DRAGONS

Many of the ancient Greek monsters that heroes needed to defeat were dragonlike in appearance. On the left, the student will find a short booklet describing these creatures. On its cover is a picture of Echidna, the mate of evil Typhon.

BEASTS

The Calydonian boar was one of the fiercest beasts in the Greek myths, although it looked like an ordinary boar. Most mythological beasts were fantastical blends of many animals. The fire-breathing Chimera, for example, had a lion's head, a goat's body, and a dragon's tail. It was slain by the hero Bellerophon, who also tamed another beast, the winged horse Pegasus, using a magic bridle that was given to him by the goddess Athena.



July 14th, Missolonghi: This is the town where the famous Lord Byron died. I tried to retrieve pieces of statue from the nearby ruins of Calydon but was chased off by a mad boar. A superstitious person might even have thought the creature was protecting the ruins. I fared much better back in town, where a trader sold me a real, genuine piece of the original Golden Kece. Zeus be praised!



THE BOAR OF CALYDON

A BOOK OF SERPENTS

ILLUSTRATED



A JAR SHOWING TANTALUS

THE ORIGINS OF MANKIND

IN ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY, human beings were said to have been created in the image of the gods, although the myths do not agree as to whether it was Zeus himself or a Titan named Prometheus who actually created them. Of all mortal creatures, human beings were thought to stand upright so that they could gaze up at the heavens, while most animals gazed down at the earth.

PROMETHEUS

Unlike his brother Atlas, Prometheus fought on the side of the gods in the war against the Titans. But he was not always obedient to Zeus's will. The myths tell that Prometheus gave mankind the gift of fire, which he stole from Mount Olympus in a fennel stalk, against the wishes of Zeus, who did not wish humans to become too clever. For this, Zeus sentenced him to a horrible punishment. Prometheus was bound in chains to Mount Caucasus, and each day a mighty winged eagle would appear and tear out his liver. Each night his liver would regrow, only to be torn out again the next day. Prometheus did not have to endure eternal punishment, however, for after a few centuries had passed, Zeus allowed the hero Heracles to kill the eagle with an arrow and free him.

ATLANTIS

While Zeus often punished mankind with floods or bolts of lightning, Greece suffered many natural disasters as well. Plato tells of a pre-Greek civilisation, Atlantis, that was destroyed in a single day. Some think it was located on the islands of Santorini, which erupted in a vast volcanic explosion around 1600 BC.

AN IMPRESSION
OF ATLANTIS



A POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR ATLANTIS



THE PUNISHMENT OF PROMETHEUS

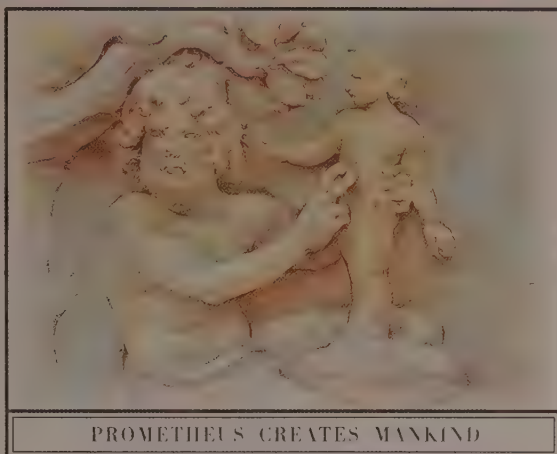


PROMETHEAN FIRE

July 20th, River Licheron:
I have made several other
finds, so I think I will keep
the jar I found for myself.

MANKIND

Some myths say that Zeus created mankind, but most say that it was Prometheus, who moulded shapes out of earth in imitation of the gods. Athena breathed life into the shapes, while a brother of Prometheus made other shapes that became the animals and beasts. Zeus was not pleased, but he did not immediately attempt to destroy mankind.



PROMETHEUS CREATES MANKIND

SACRIFICES

Zeus ordered the new men to worship him with sacrifices. So Prometheus tricked him by dividing an ox into two parts: one with the meat, wrapped up in a paunch; the other with bones, wrapped in fat. He offered both to Zeus, who chose the latter portion for his divine meal. From that time on, that was the part always offered to the gods, the meat itself being eaten.



AGES OF MAN: GOLD

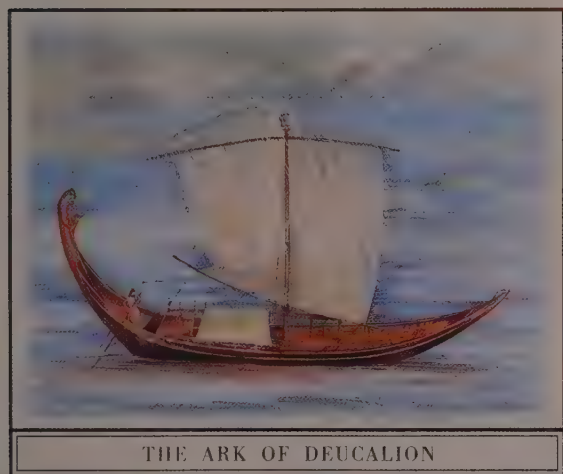
PANDORA

To punish men for all the crimes of Prometheus, Zeus ordered that the gods make an equal creature to both delight and torment them. They made Pandora, the first woman. Zeus put her among men, with a box that she had instructions not to open. But curiosity got the better of her. She opened the box, and out poured all the illnesses and griefs of the world. Only hope remained inside.



THE FLOOD

In order to test the goodness of mankind, Zeus disguised himself as a mortal and visited the house of a man named Lycaon. Zeus told Lycaon who he really was, but Lycaon, instead of worshipping him, tried to kill him. Zeus turned Lycaon into a wolf and decided to destroy the rest of the human race with a great flood. However, Prometheus warned two pious worshippers, Deucalion and his wife, Pyrrha, about the impending flood. Deucalion prepared an ark and filled it with food, so that he and his wife became the only people to survive the nine-day deluge. As the waters receded, their ark landed on Mount Parnassus. Later, they had a son named Hellen, who became the ancestor of all the Greeks. The Greeks named their country Hellas after him.



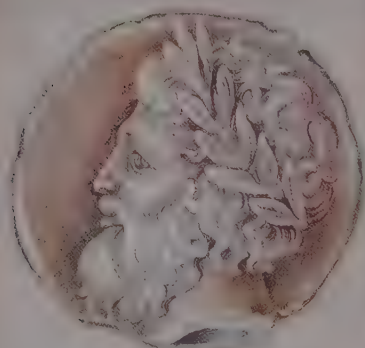
THE ARK OF DEUCALION

July 21st, near Dodona: The ancient Greeks believed that there were four ages of history. In the Golden Age, people lived long, happy, easy lives, and it was always springtime.



AGES OF MAN: BRONZE

In the Silver Age, people still lived a long time but forgot to worship the gods. In the Bronze Age, people were fierce warriors with bronze weapons. In our age, the Iron Age, people are wicked and their lives are short.



GREEK COIN DEPICTING ZEUS

July 22nd, Dodona: Zeus has let me find my first gold coin! It even bears a picture of him. Coins were invented by a Lydian king called Croesus, whose name is synonymous with fabulous riches.



MOUNT OLYMPUS

July 23rd: More coins! Zeus must be blessing my efforts! When I have found as much as I can, I shall travel to Mount Olympus to thank him. Does he mean me to give everything to Mr. Pataki, I wonder?

ZEUS AND HERA, RULERS OF THE GODS

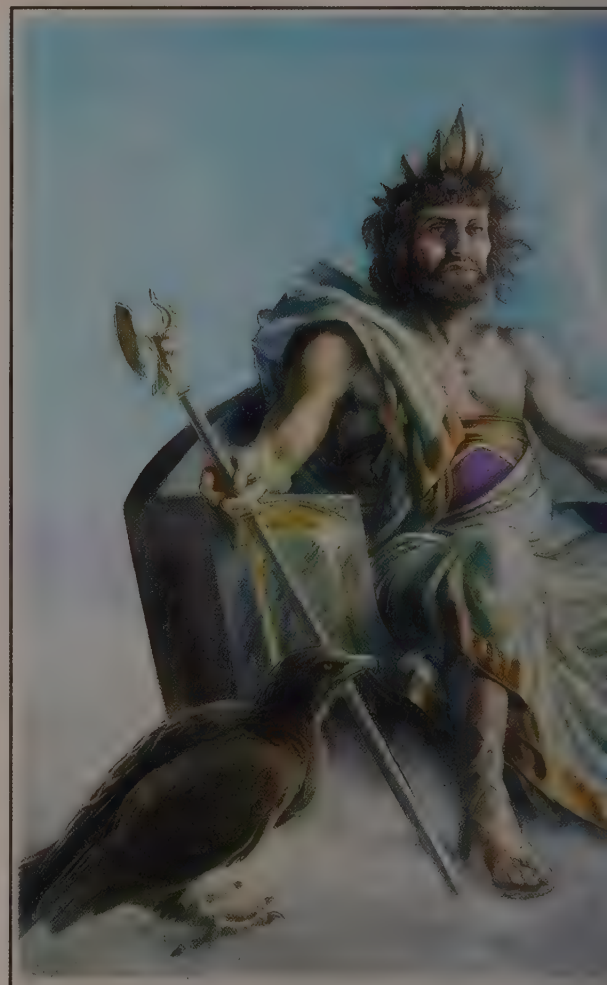
AT OLYMPIA, IN WESTERN GREECE, stand the ruins of the temple of Zeus. Near this site the ancient Olympic games were held every four years in Zeus's honour. At one time the temple contained a forty-foot high statue of Zeus that was hailed as one of the seven wonders of the world. It was created by Phidias, the most famous sculptor of ancient Greece, in order to properly honour the king of the gods.

FATHER ZEUS

Zeus, the god of the sky, was the chief of all the Olympians and was married to his sister Hera, who ruled with him. He is often known as "Father Zeus," and he was the guardian of morality and the giver of justice to both humans and gods. He sat in judgement over them, striking down evildoers with thunderbolts or sentencing them to a variety of horrible punishments in Tartarus. His palace was located on Mount Olympus, his chief temple at Olympia, and his chief oracle at Dodona. His favourite son was the demigod Heracles, whom he eventually raised to a seat among the immortals. Although most myths say that Zeus was the husband of Hera, he also had other marriages. He was said to have married Metis, the mother of Athena; Leto, the mother of Apollo and Artemis; Semele, the mother of Dionysus; and Maia, the mother of Hermes. Although Zeus always married Hera again afterwards, she usually had some reason to be angry with her husband.

THE EAGLE OF ZEUS

In Greek mythology, each of the gods was associated with certain symbols and had his or her own special birds, animals, and plants. The most recognisable symbol of Zeus was his eagle, which he always kept at his side. As god of the sky, his main symbol was the thunderbolt, and as ruler of heaven, it was a sceptre. The stout oak and hardy olive were his trees. His wife Hera, as queen of heaven, wore either a jewelled crown or diadem or a veil, and her sacred animals were the peacock (several of which pulled her chariot), the cow, and the black crow.



ZEUS AND HERA ENTHRONED

THE DEMIGODS: HALF MORTAL, HALF IMMORTAL

Children with one mortal and one immortal parent were known as demigods. Heracles, the son of Zeus and the mortal Alcmena, was famed for his extraordinary strength, a result of his divine parentage. Theseus and Bellerophon—the sons of Poseidon by mortal mothers—and Perseus, a son

of Zeus, also demonstrated their unearthly descent through heroic acts. Clearly, the gods were interested in the adventures of their children, although in the case of Poseidon, who fathered both Theseus and Theseus's nemesis, the Minotaur, there was sometimes a conflict of interest.

HERA

Hera, Zeus's queen, was the goddess of marriage and childbirth. She was the mother of Ares, the war god, and Hephaestus, the smith. Her main sanctuary on Earth was at the city of Argos in the Peloponnese.



MOUNT OLYMPUS

OAK LEAVES OF THE ORACLE

DODONA

At Dodona, the ancient Greeks asked the oracle how they should act in different situations. They interpreted the rustling of leaves on a sacred oak tree as signs from Zeus and a goddess named Dione, advising the best course.

	means THUNDER = Unlikely
	means LIGHTNING = Likely
	means ZEUS SMILES = Yes
	means ZEUS FROWNS = No

THE CHILDREN OF ZEUS

Zeus had many children, mortal and immortal, including the hero Heracles and the gods Apollo and Artemis. It is no surprise, then, that many royal Greek families claimed to trace their lineage back to Zeus.



THE SUFFERERS OF HERA'S ANGER

I have developed a method for casting an oak orade: Ask Zeus to guide you. Think of the question closest to your heart. Then cast the leaves outdoors, asking for wisdom.



OAK TREE AT DODONA

HERA AND HER WRATH

Hera disliked Zeus's other marriages and tried to stop him from having any more children. She banned Leto, mother of Apollo and Artemis, from giving birth on dry land, forcing her to wander until she found the floating isle of Delos. She caused Io, whom Zeus had turned into a cow in

order to disguise her, to roam the world without rest, being stung by a gadfly wherever she went. She also convinced Semele, a mortal, to demand to see Zeus in his divine form, wreathed in lightning. Ordinary humans cannot stand such an overwhelming sight, so Semele was instantly burned up.

July 24th, Dodona: I asked the orade if Zeus meant me to look after any of the relics I have found. The answer was yes! Does he mean me to guard them? I have written to Lady Vestia seeking advice.



POSEIDON AND THE SEA

SOUNION, SITE OF the temple of Poseidon, stands on a promontory near Athens. There, a watch was kept on all the ships approaching the city. Poseidon, god of the sea, was, with Athena, one of the chief gods of Athens and an important god for the Mediterranean world, where so much travel and trade went by sea. Poseidon could either keep the sea calm or raise up storms and tempests to drown even the best of sailors.



RUINS OF SOUNION

*August 3rd, Sounion:
I arrived at Athens but did
not see Mr. Patahis. Instead,
I have come to Sounion to see
what I can find at the ruined
temple of Poseidon.*



BYRON'S GRAFFITI

*August 4th, Sounion: All
I have found is where Lord
Byron carved his name on
the temple. What vandalism!
It's a shame I can't chip it off.
It might fetch a few pounds
as an interesting curiosity.*



POSEIDON AND AMPHITRITE RIDING THROUGH THE WAVES ON

POSEIDON AND AMPHITRITE

Poseidon's wife was named Amphitrite. When he first wooed her, she fled and hid in the Atlantic Ocean, so Poseidon sent a dolphin to chase after her and bring her back. Poseidon and Amphitrite married and had a son named Triton, who had the body of a man and the tail of a fish and lived with them in their palace under the sea. He carried a conch shell, which he could blow to either raise or quiet the winds. Poseidon himself carried a trident, and he and Amphitrite are often shown in Greek paintings riding across the ocean in a chariot pulled either by mythical creatures known as hippocamps, which are half-horse, half-fish, or by horses themselves, which were sacred to Poseidon and which some myths say Poseidon created as a gift for the Athenians.



TRITON BLOWING HIS CONCH



EARTHQUAKES

Poseidon was known as the "Earth shaker" or god of earthquakes. He was a vengeful god. The *Odyssey* tells how the hero Odysseus was pursued by Poseidon's anger after blinding the sea god's son, a cyclops named Polyphemus. Some believed that it was Poseidon who caused an earthquake that devastated the city of Sparta in 464 BC as revenge for the Spartans' killing of some of his Helot worshippers.



CHARIOT

SEA CREATURES

A large number of mythological creatures were thought to live in the sea. These included the Nereids, or sea nymphs, of whom there were said to be fifty, including Thetis, the mother of the Greek hero Achilles. There were also a number of half-beast, half-fish creatures, of which the hippocamps were prominent. In later Greek myths there were tritons, a race of beings that looked like Poseidon's son Triton, and there was Delphin, the faithful dolphin attendant of Poseidon, who had brought Amphitrite to him. There were many monsters in the sea, including Scylla and Charybdis, and the Ketea, serpentlike monsters with very sharp teeth. Perseus slew one of them while rescuing Andromeda, a maiden who was chained to a rock at the edge of the sea.

THE ODYSSEY

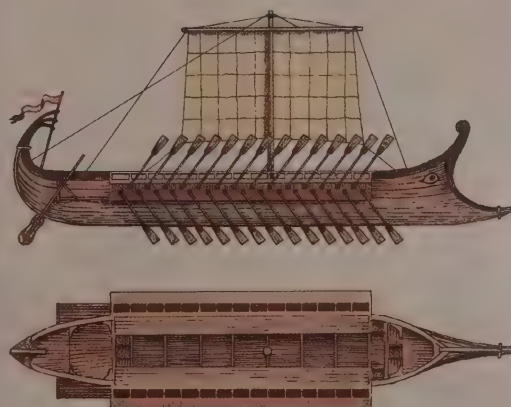


A SHORTER VERSION

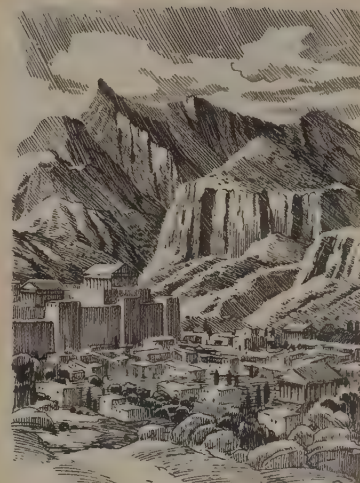
Adapted from the Greek poet
HOMER

SEAFARING

Travelling by sea was very important in the ancient Greek world, as it was a faster way to travel and trade goods than going by land. Many of the tales of the Greek heroes involve journeys by sea, of which one of the most famous is the story of Jason and the Argonauts. The type of ships that the Greeks used had banks of oars on either side and one or two sails. A warship often had a carved end that could be rammed into enemy ships in order to sink them, since gunpowder had not yet been invented.



AN ANCIENT GREEK BIREME



ANCIENT SPARTA

August 5th, Athens: Lady Hestia writes that I must hand over all my finds to Mr. Patahis. Do I detect jealousy?



AN EARTHQUAKE

August 6th, north of Athens: I survived an earthquake. They are common here, but could it be a warning from Zeus that Lady Hestia is actually in league with Mr. Patahis to steal my spoils?

HADES AND THE UNDERWORLD

THE RIVER ACHERON flows through northwestern Greece. It was believed to rise from one of the five rivers of the underworld, which was ruled over by the stern god Hades. Souls of the dead who carried an ancient Greek coin in their mouths were ferried across another underworld river, the Styx, by Charon, to begin eternity as citizens of his dark kingdom. Those who did not have a coin remained, lamenting, by the riverside forever.

HADES AND PERSEPHONE

Hades, the ruler of the underworld, was often portrayed wearing the cap of invisibility made for him by the Cyclopes and accompanied by his three-headed dog, Cerberus, savage guardian of the underworld. His chief weapon was a two-pronged fork. His wife was Persephone, the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of fertility. Demeter had hidden Persephone away from the other gods so that none of them could marry her. However,

Hades came upon the girl while she was picking flowers and carried her off to his dark kingdom. Demeter was so sad that the whole earth became barren. Zeus decreed that Persephone must be returned. However, Hades tricked her into eating four pomegranate seeds, which meant that for four months each year, she had to return to his kingdom; the earth would lie barren while her mother lamented. This myth explains why we have winter.



HADES, PERSEPHONE, AND CERBERUS

HADES AND PERSEPHONE

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HADES, PERSEPHONE, AND CERBERUS



THE GODDESS DEMETER

I watched from a distance while the antiquarians found a marvellous jar bearing an image of Demeter.

August 9th, Eleusis: The sacred ruins at Eleusis have an eerie feel. I had hoped to make interesting finds, but when I arrived, three Greek antiquarians were already digging and refused to let me join in the fun.



HADES AND PERSEPHONE

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HADES, PERSEPHONE, AND CERBERUS



CHARON FERRYING A SOUL ACROSS THE RIVER STYX

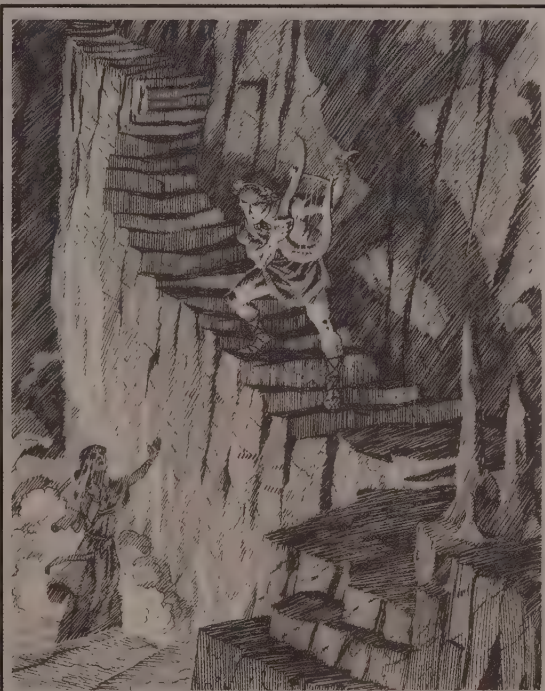
LIFE AFTER DEATH

Hades was not only the name of the god of the underworld; it was also used as the name of the land of the dead itself. It was divided into different regions, including the plains of Asphodel, where those who were neither good nor bad were sent; the Elysian Fields, which housed the souls of heroes and the virtuous; and Tartarus, where the wicked were punished. There were five main rivers: Acheron (sorrow), Cocytus (lamentation), Styx (hate), Lethe (forgetfulness), and Phlegethon

(fire). When people died, they were buried with a small coin called an *obol* in their mouths to pay Charon, the ferryman, to row them across the River Styx. If they did not have a coin, through poverty or lack of friends to perform burial rites, they were not allowed across. On the other side, they had to pass Cerberus, the three-headed hound of Hades, before entering Hades' realm to be judged. Many souls chose to drink from the waters of Lethe, which erased all memory of their human lives.

DEMETER

A child of Cronus and Rhea, Demeter was one of the twelve Olympians. She was the goddess of fertility and the harvest, and she is often shown with flowers, fruits, and grain. As the mother of Persephone, she was worshipped during the Eleusinian Mysteries, secret celebrations held to mark the beginning of spring and Persephone's return to Earth. The mysteries also marked the end of Demeter's search for her daughter. Demeter was believed to have taught the ancient Greeks the art of growing crops so that they could live by farming and become civilised.



ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE

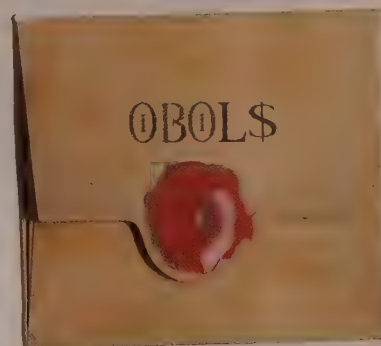
ORPHEUS

Apart from Persephone, Hades was reluctant to let any souls leave his realm and return to Earth. The mythological lyre player Orpheus mourned for his wife, Eurydice, who had died when she was bitten by a serpent. Orpheus sought the advice of the gods, who suggested that he ask Hades to return her. He played such lovely music that the god agreed, on the condition that Orpheus walk in front of her on the long road to the upper world and that he not look back until they arrived. Orpheus could not resist turning around to see if Eurydice was safe, and so she was lost to him forever.



SISYPHUS AND HIS TORMENT

August 10th, Eleusis: I have been dreaming up Tartarean punishments for Lady Vestia, Mr. Patakis, and the greedy antiquarians. Sisyphus was condemned to roll a rock up a mountain, only to have it roll down again each time he neared the top. Perhaps Lady Vestia should have to write a book where each page becomes blank as soon as it is completed?



August 11th, Eleusis: I finally managed to get revenge on the Greek antiquarians. I sneaked into their camp while they were working and managed to get my hands on a beautiful ancient obol!



NARCISSUS

August 13th, Thespiae: At the Donacon spring, Narcissus fell in love with his reflection and was turned into a daffodil. Not a very pretty end!



HEPHAESTUS THE SMITH

August 20th, Mycenae (?): Ruins of a gate are just visible. A local farmer showed me a golden death mask he had found. That night I took it. Why not? Zeus chose me to protect such things.

ARES, APHRODITE, AND HEPHAESTUS

MARATHON, which lies 26.2 miles from Athens, was the site of a battle in 490 BC in which a small Athenian army defeated the much larger Persian army of Darius I. After the battle, a man named Pheidippides is said to have run to Athens to announce the victory. When he arrived, he shouted, "We were victorious!" before dying on the spot. Such deeds are associated in mythology with Ares, the god of war.

APHRODITE

Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was the wife of Hephaestus, the lame blacksmith of the gods. Her magic weapon was her girdle. Whoever wore it became so instantly attractive that people could not help falling in love with them. With this girdle, Aphrodite claimed that she was even more powerful than Zeus himself, for even he could not resist its powers. However, sometimes Aphrodite got herself in trouble. She liked Ares, the god of war, very much, and one day, Hephaestus found them kissing each other. He made a net from a mythical unbreakable material called adamant, which he threw over them, and called on all the other gods to come and make fun of them while they were trapped.

HEPHAESTUS

Hephaestus, the god of fire, was the brother of Ares. Although he was lame and ugly, he was the husband of Aphrodite, a fact that often caused him to be jealous. He made many magical weapons for the gods and heroes, including his own wife's girdle, Hermes' helmet and sandals, the armour of Achilles, and Eros's bow and arrows.

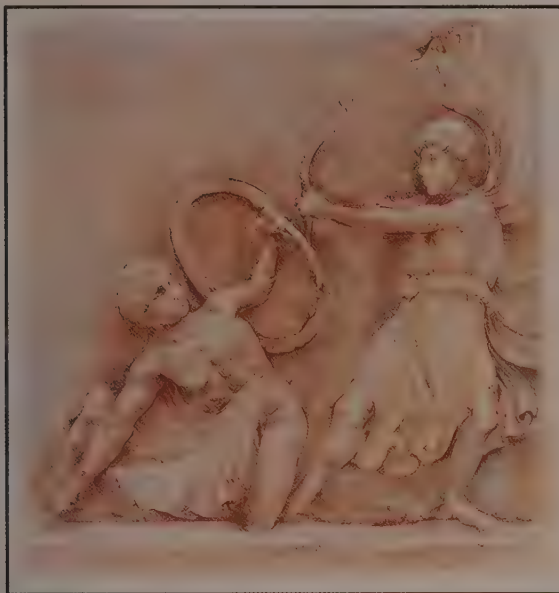


EROS

Eros, the god of love, was often said to have been one of the first gods born out of Chaos. But in other myths, he was a companion of Aphrodite and carried a magical bow and arrow that he fired into the hearts of mortals to make them fall in love.



ARES AND APHRODITE CAUGHT



A FIGHT WITH THE AMAZONS

ARES

Often drawn in a chariot by fire-breathing stallions, Ares, the savage god of war, was not a favourite among the other Olympian gods, except with Aphrodite. His sacred bird was the vulture, and he almost always wore a helm and carried a spear. Even the ancient Greeks preferred to look to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, for their battle strategy, rather than rely on hotheaded Ares. His children were Deimos and Phobos, the spirits of terror and fear, and he often preferred his home country of Thrace to dwelling with the other gods on Olympus.

WARFARE

War was common in the ancient Mediterranean, and there were many myths about strange warlike peoples, such as the fierce Amazons, who did not allow men to live with them. Parts of the Parthenon marbles show Greeks fighting Amazons dressed as Persians. Some think this was a way of insulting the Persians.



A SPARTAN WARRIOR

August 25th, Sparta: I dared not look for more relics here. What if the warlike reputation of the ancient inhabitants has survived into the present?



HEPHAESTUS'S ISLE, LEMNOS

August 26th, Arcadia: I have decided that I will not trust anyone with my relics. Zeus led me to them: they are mine. And the more I travel, the more I shall surely find!

Impression of a magnificent death mask found in the burial chamber of a warrior king.



SPARTA AND ATHENS

Ancient Greece was not a single kingdom but was made up of lots of small kingdoms and city-states. Two of the most powerful, Athens and Sparta, were often at war. Sparta was a warlike state where all men were trained for battle and where slaves called Helots did most of the non-fighting work.

BAY OF MARATHON

Persian Camp

MT. PENTELICUS

THE BATTLE OF MARATHON



SILENUS ON A DONKEY

August 27th, Arcadia: Having claimed my treasures for my own, I was riding back through Arcadia when I was panicked by a sudden shout. But no one was there. I choose to believe it was the god Pan, cheering me on.



A MAENAD

August 28th, Arcadia: Last night I drank a toast to my success. Now I have a hangover—and know why the Greeks diluted their wine with water!

APOLLO, HERMES, AND DIONYSUS

AT DELPHI LIE THE RUINS of a magnificent temple, a theatre, and a stadium where the Pythian Games were held every four years in honour of the god Apollo. Revered as the centre of the ancient Greek universe, Delphi is also the site of the famous Delphic Oracle. Here, people from all over Greece would come to ask questions of the priestess of Apollo.

APOLLO

Apollo was not only the god of healing, music, and poetry but also of oracles. It was he who spoke through the priestess of Delphi, known as the Pythia, answering the questions put to her. His symbols were a lyre and a bow, which he used to rain down plagues. When King Agamemnon captured Chryseis, a daughter of a priest of Apollo, during the Trojan War, Apollo sent down a rain of arrows on the Greeks. During the plague that followed, many brave soldiers died, but Apollo stopped firing his arrows only when Agamemnon freed Chryseis and allowed her to return to her father.

HERMES

Hermes, with his winged cap and sandals and a staff known as a caduceus, was the messenger of the gods, as well as the god of travellers and thieves. On the day he was born, he escaped from his mother, Maia, and ran to where Apollo's cattle were grazing. He stole them and hid them in a cave, where he found a tortoise shell. This he strung, inventing the lyre. He returned home and wrapped himself back up in his baby clothes. When Apollo discovered the theft, he demanded the return of his cattle. Hermes denied stealing them, but he had been seen by Zeus, so to calm Apollo, he began to play the lyre. Apollo so loved the music that he was happy to accept the lyre Hermes had invented as a gift in exchange for the cattle.



EPISODES FROM THE MYT



THE GOD PAN

THE GOD PAN

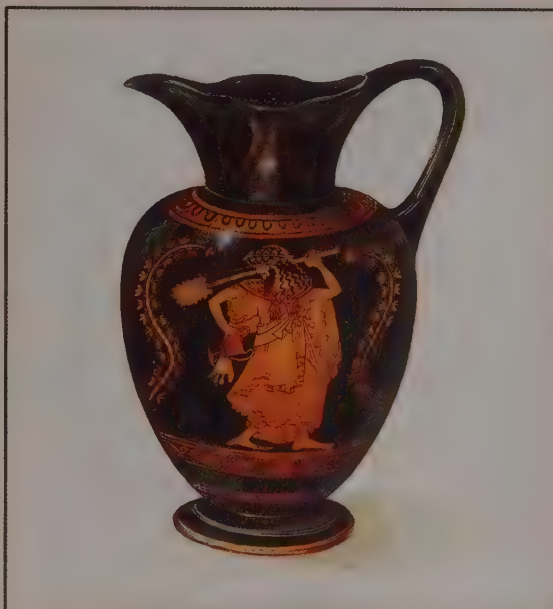
Pan was a god of the woods and hills of the region of Arcadia. A god of fields and shepherds, he looked like a cross between a man and a goat, and he invented the panpipes. He was so proud of them that at one time he challenged Apollo to a music contest, in which everyone but a king called Midas judged Apollo to be the winner. For not appreciating his music, Apollo gave Midas a donkey's ears. Pan was said to frighten people in lonely places by uttering sudden loud shouts. The word *panic* comes from his name.

THE NINE MUSES

The Muses were originally said to be three, and later nine, daughters of Zeus who helped humans with the arts of poetry and song. They were often invoked when a storyteller began a new work. Their names were Calliope (epic poetry), Euterpe (song), Clio (history), Erato (love poetry), Melpomene (tragedy), Polyhymnia (hymns), Terpsichore (dance), Thalia (comedy), and Urania (astronomy).



HERMES AND APOLLO



DIONYSUS, GOD OF WINE

DIONYSUS

Dionysus, the god of agriculture and wine, was the last god to join the twelve Olympians. Hestia gave up her seat for him. His plants were vines and twirling ivy. He often carried a pinecone-topped staff, and his followers were goat-footed Satyrs and Maenads, wild women who danced energetically during his festivals. Dionysus was the child of Zeus and Semele, a human woman whom Hera had tricked into asking to see Zeus as he really was. Since she was mortal, she was burned up by the sight of Zeus in his divine form. So Zeus sewed the infant Dionysus into his thigh and gave birth to him nine months later. As a child, Dionysus was tutored by Silenus, who was a great lover of wine and often had to be carried on the back of a donkey. Before he took his place at Olympus, Dionysus wandered the world for many years, going as far as India to teach people how to grow vines.



RUINS AT DELPHI

*September 5th, Delphi:
This was the site of the famous
oracle of Apollo. The place is too
busy to do any digging, but
I don't need Apollo's assistance
when I have Zeus on my side.*



THE MUSES

*September 7th, Parnassus:
This was the home of the
Muses. It may interest fools
like Lady Hestia, but I am
after relics, not words, no
matter how sweet they sound.*

KNOWLEDGE CARDS
OF THE GODS OF OLYMPUS



THE BIRTH OF ATHENA

September 10th, Athens: Zeus has brought me so much good fortune, I can only believe that all of the stories of the myths are real. Why couldn't Athena burst from his head? What more can he do for me?



ATHENA & ACHILLES

September 11th, Athens: I am sure Mr. Pataki wants my funds for himself, so I decided to return the favour. I visited his house at night and took away a small statue of Athena.

ATHENA, ARTEMIS, AND HESTIA

SACRED TO THE GODDESS ATHENA, the beautiful and ancient city of Athens is dominated by the hill of the Acropolis, upon which still stand many remarkable ruins. Athena was the goddess of wisdom and war and was very often the helper of heroes. When Achilles fell out with King Menelaus during the Trojan War, she appeared beside him invisibly and pulled his hair to stop him from drawing his sword and killing the king.

THE BIRTH OF ATHENA

Athena was the child of Zeus by one of his wives, Metis, and the story of her birth is very strange. When Metis became pregnant, Zeus feared that he might be overthrown by a son, as his father and grandfather had been, so he swallowed Metis to

prevent this from happening. But no sooner had he done so than he began to have terrible headaches. So Hephaestus, the lame smith of the gods, kindly split his head open with an axe, and Metis's child, Athena, sprang out, fully armed.

ATHENS

The ancient Athenians could not decide whether their dominant god should be Athena or Poseidon, so each god offered the city a gift. Most myths say that Athena caused an olive tree to spring up, while Poseidon struck a rock with his trident and a stream of salt water gushed forth. Some say that he gave the Athenians the first horse. Either way, the result was that the people of Athens decided to make Athena their chief god, naming their city after her and raising a beautiful temple and statue in her honour on the top of the hill of the Acropolis.



ATHENA, GODDESS OF WISDOM

ROME

Ancient Greece became part of the Roman Republic in 146 BC. The Romans, with their powerful armies, came to control the entire Mediterranean world, but they adopted many of the Greeks' ideas about their gods, and many of the gods and heroes are known by Roman names. For example, the ancient Greek hero Heracles is often known by his Roman name, Hercules, while Zeus's Roman name is Jupiter and Poseidon's is Neptune. In order to assist students, a table has been created below that shows the Roman names that were given to the most important Greek gods.

ROMAN NAMES OF THE GODS

GREEK	ROMAN
ZEUS	JUPITER
POSEIDON	NEPTUNE
HEPHAESTUS	VULCAN
ARES	MARS
APOLLO	APOLLO
DIONYSUS	BACCHUS
HADES	PLUTO

GREEK	ROMAN
HERA	JUNO
DEMETER	CERES
APHRODITE	VENUS
ATHENA	MINERVA
ARTEMIS	DIANA
HERMES	MERCURY
EROS	CUPID



TOP ELEVATION



WEST PERSPECTIVE



THE PARTHENON IN THREE PERSPECTIVES

ARTEMIS AND ACTAEON

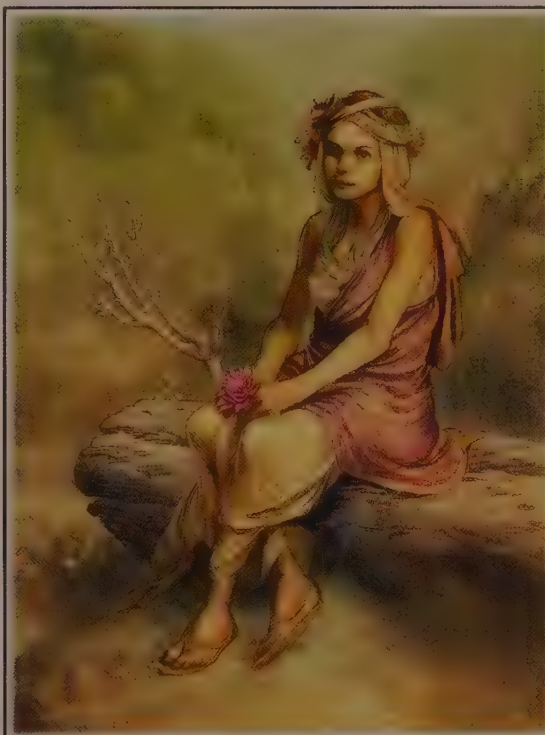
The sister of Apollo, Artemis was the goddess of the hunt, and her temple at Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. She was very modest. One day a hunter called Actaeon accidentally saw her bathing in a stream. She was so angry that she threw water at him, turning him into a stag. His own dogs, not knowing their master, chased and killed him.



THE GODDESS ARTEMIS

HESTIA

Hestia was the goddess of the fireside and of the family. Originally one of the twelve Olympians, she gave up her place to Dionysus so that she could tend the sacred fire on Mount Olympus. In her honour, ancient Greeks' main household fires were never allowed to go out. Like Artemis, Hestia remained unmarried. Her most important shrine was at Delphi.



THE GODDESS HESTIA

ATHENA'S GIFT:
AN OLIVE TREE



POSEIDON'S GIFT:
A SALT SPRING

*September 11th, Athens:
Another infuriating letter
from Lady Hestia: I must
hand over everything, or she
will no longer consider me
a friend! I hear the police
are looking for me.*



A PARTHENON MARBLE

*At the docks I boarded a ferry
called the Penelope. It will
take me to Thessaloniki.*



HIDING FROM BANDITS

*September 28th, Olympus:
Tales of bandits make me worry
that my treasures might be
stolen but have also given me
an idea. I'll ask Zeus for the
same gift given to Rhodas. If I
can turn things to gold, I'll
never fear losing my wealth.*



BELLEROPHON AND PEGASUS

*With the power to turn things
into gold, I shall not need a
horse like mighty Pegasus in
order to defeat my enemies.*

HERACLES AND THE GREEK HEROES

SOME OF THE MOST exciting ancient Greek myths tell of the quests and adventures of demigods and heroes. The borders of this book have been decorated with friezes illustrating the legends of three of the most important heroes of legend: Heracles, who had to complete twelve dangerous labours; Jason, who led the Argonauts in a quest for the Golden Fleece; and Theseus, who sailed to Crete and slew the Minotaur.



JASON APPROACHING THE GOLDEN FLEECE

JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS

Like many Greek heroes, Jason was sent on a dangerous mission by a king who feared him and hoped he would not return. He was ordered to fetch the Golden Fleece from Colchis by King Pelias. So he gathered together the Argonauts, a group of demigods and heroes that included Orpheus and Heracles, and set off in a ship called the *Argo*. At Colchis, the king there would give Jason the Fleece only if he could perform certain tasks. The king's daughter, Medea, a sorceress, offered to help. She gave him a flame-resistant ointment so he could yoke two fire-breathing oxen and plough a field. Next, Jason had to sow dragon's teeth, which grew into terrible armed warriors. Medea told him to throw a stone among them, whereupon the warriors, not knowing who had thrown the stone, began to fight and soon killed one another. Then Medea took Jason to the dragon guarding the Fleece. She used her magic to put the dragon to sleep so that Jason could take the Fleece and return home.

THE LABOURS OF HERACLES

The greatest hero of them all, Heracles was the enemy of a king named Eurystheus. Hera, who hated Heracles because he was the son of Zeus but not her own child, had driven Heracles mad, so that he killed his own wife and children without knowing what he was doing. To atone for this terrible crime, Heracles was made the slave of King Eurystheus for twelve years. Eurystheus made him perform twelve labours, starting by ordering him to slay a monstrous lion that had been terrorising Nemea. This lion had a skin that was invulnerable to weapons. Heracles was unable to kill it with his club and so had to strangle it. He then skinned the lion using one of its own claws and took its impenetrable pelt to be his own armour.

THE TWELVE LABOURS

1. SLAYING THE NEMEAN LION
2. SLAYING THE LERNEAN HYDRA
3. CAPTURING THE CERYNEIAN HIND
4. CAPTURING THE ERYMANTHIAN BOAR
5. CLEANING THE AUGEAN STABLES IN ONE DAY
6. SLAYING THE STYMPHALIAN BIRDS
7. CAPTURING THE CRETAN BULL
8. STEALING THE MARES OF DIOMEDES
9. OBTAINING THE GIRDLE OF HIPPLYTE
10. STEALING THE COWS OF GERYON
11. STEALING THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE HESPERIDES
12. CAPTURING CERBERUS



HERACLES FIGHTING THE NEMEAN LION

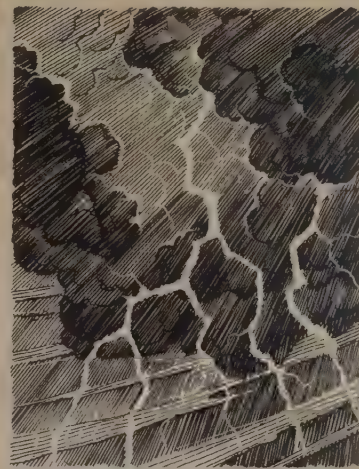


THESEUS AND THE MINOTAUR

After King Minos of Crete defeated King Aegeus of Athens, he demanded that the Athenians send seven young men and seven maidens every year to Crete—there to be sacrificed to a savage monster with a bull's head and a man's body called the Minotaur. Aegeus's son, Theseus, volunteered to go as one of the seven young men and kill the Minotaur. He told his father that on his return, he would replace his ship's black sails with white ones to let Aegeus know that he had succeeded. The Minotaur lived in a maze

called the Labyrinth, designed by the master inventor Daedalus, from which no one could escape. When Theseus arrived in Crete, Minos's daughter, Ariadne, fell in love with him and gave him a ball of string so that he could find his way out of the Labyrinth. Theseus entered the maze, slew the Minotaur, and led the Athenians to safety. But on returning to Athens, he forgot to fly white sails, and his father, thinking he had been killed, threw himself into the sea, which thereafter became known as the Aegean, and drowned.

*September 29th, Olympus:
Great excitement! As I
climbed the mountain, stormy
thunder and lightning raged.
Zeus was welcoming me to
Olympus! He was treating
me like his own son! Soon
I shall have his power!*



THE THUNDERBOLT

*September 30th: I found
a cave on the mountain.
With the Golden Fleece in my
hand, I read a hymn to Zeus.
The sky darkened. I shouted
to the god that I would be his
forever if he would give me
the power to turn things to
gold. I felt a glow around my
fingers. My quill is turning
to gold as I write! But it is
still writing, so I write this:
Let all those who once doubted
or opposed me, now fear me
and beware my wrath!*



GREEKS VERSUS TROJANS

*September 30th, Olympus: Now
I shall laugh at Lady Hestia
and Mr. Patakis now!
Who cares for relics when
I can make my own marvels?
Or shall I smite them?
With weapons of solid gold?*



THE APPLE OF DISCORD

*All I touch slowly turns to
gold. Even food. A horror
is dawning. Could this "gift"
actually be a curse? There
must be an escape! Surely
Father Zeus wants me to eat?*

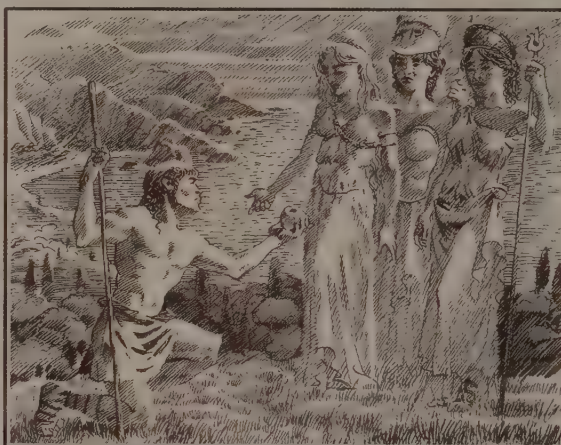
THE WAR AGAINST TROY

IN TURKEY LIES THE PLAIN where the town of Troy once stood. The walls of the town were said to have been built by Poseidon himself. It was surrounding these walls that the most famous war in all of Greek mythology took place—the Trojan War. When Helen, the wife of the Greek king Menelaus, was abducted by Paris, a prince of Troy, a thousand Greek ships set sail for Troy to lay siege to the city and rescue her.

THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS

The conflict began at a wedding to which all the gods were invited except for Eris, the goddess of strife. In spite, she threw an apple with the words *For the fairest among Athena, Hera, and*

Aphrodite. Zeus asked Paris to choose who should receive the apple. Athena offered wisdom, Hera all of Asia, but Paris took Aphrodite's offer—marriage to Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world.



THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS

THE GREEKS SET SAIL

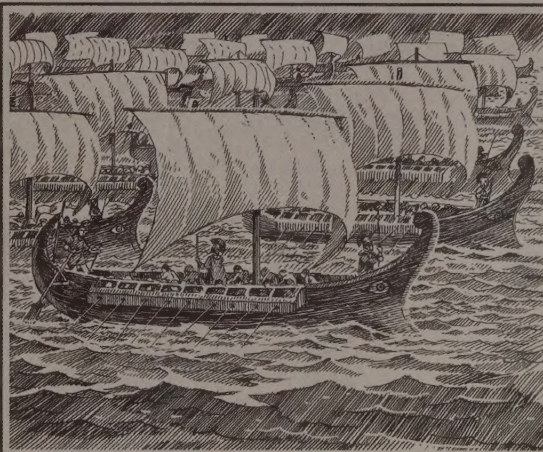
The problem with Aphrodite's offer was that Helen was already married to Menelaus, king of Sparta. When Paris visited Sparta, Aphrodite magically made Helen fall in love with him and helped him to kidnap her and take her to Troy. Menelaus was furious and sought help from his brother, Agamemnon, king of Mycenae, and from all of the Greek kings and princes, who were then called Achaeans, including heroes such as Achilles and Odysseus. At first the Greek ships wandered, as their leaders were not sure of the way to Troy, and then the ships were scattered by a storm and had to return to Greece. But eventually they regrouped, and a massive fleet of a thousand ships set sail towards Troy in order to rescue Helen. They laid siege to the city in a war that lasted ten years, with each side being helped or hindered by different Olympian gods, who each had their own reasons for joining in the struggle.



THE GREEKS' GIFT: THE WOODEN

ACHILLES

The Greek hero Achilles was nearly invulnerable, because his mother had dipped him in the River Styx as a baby. In doing so, she had held him by his heel, which did not get wet and thus remained vulnerable. At one point during the Trojan War, Achilles refused to fight. The Greeks began to lose, and so his friend Patroclus donned his armour in order to give the Greeks the impression that Achilles was fighting with them once more. The ruse worked, but Patroclus was slain. Angrily, Achilles fought and killed Hector, the mightiest champion of the Trojans and the brother of Paris. But Achilles himself was slain by an arrow shot by Paris that struck him in his vulnerable heel.



THE GREEK FLEET

THE TROJAN HORSE

After the death of Achilles at the hands of Paris, the Greeks were unsure how to continue their war against the Trojans. For although they won many battles against them on the wide plain in front of the city, they were unable to get into the city of Troy itself. And as long as the walls of Troy stood, they could not finish the war by actually rescuing Helen. But then the Greek hero Odysseus came up with a cunning plan to break the deadlock.

Odysseus ordered the Greeks to build an enormous horse—a symbol of the god Poseidon—out of wood. He then hid in the hollow belly of the horse with a number of other Greek heroes, while the main Greek fleet set sail, pretending that they had given up hope of winning the war and were returning home to Greece. In reality, the fleet merely sailed to the nearby island of Tenedos and waited out of sight. The Trojans, believing that the Greek army had finally left, dragged the wooden horse into the city in delight. But that night, Odysseus and the Greek heroes crept down out of the wooden horse and opened the gates of Troy. The Greek fleet returned in the night, and the soldiers flooded into the city. The sleeping Trojans were completely taken by surprise. The Greeks had no trouble looting and burning the city. Helen and Menelaus were finally reunited, Paris was killed, and the ten-year war was finally over. However, although the Greeks set out to return home at once, many of them, including Odysseus himself, faced difficult journeys and adventures that would, in some cases, last another ten long years.



THE HORSE IS LEFT FOR THE TROJANS.

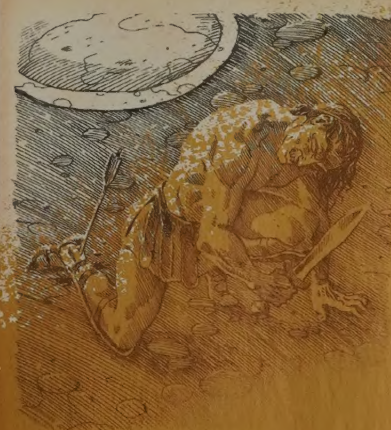
THE STORY OF KING MIDAS

OVID



A TALE OF GREED
AND MAGICAL
TRANSFORMATIONS

October 1st, Olympus: Having now read the full story of Midas, I begged Zeus to take his gift back, but thunder rumbled like laughter. There is no hope. I touched my chest and now I too am turning to gold. I must write a letter—a warning—before it is too late for me to hold this pen!



ACHILLES' HEEL

A black and white woodcut illustration of a winged unicorn rearing up on its hind legs. The unicorn has a long, flowing mane and tail, and its wings are spread wide. It is standing on a rocky, uneven ground. The background is dark and textured with vertical lines.

GREECE is full of mysterious stories. Some of them seem almost as incredible as the ancient myths of the gods of long ago. In Argos, for example, I came across the strange tale of how Mr. Kroisos, a wealthy member of the town, became rich.

Born a poor shepherd near the southern slopes of Mount Olympus, Mr. Kroisos was searching for a lost sheep when he came across a cave. Inside he found numerous objects, including an interesting book, a letter, a golden quill pen, and a human-size statue of solid gold. What he found most remarkable about the statue was that it did not seem ancient at all. Unable to read the letter and having a hungry family to feed, Mr. Kroisos sought the help of a goldsmith and melted the statue down. But in selling off the gold, he came to the attention of the authorities, who took it away. However, he had

already sold enough to make himself a rich man.

He claimed that the gold taken by the Greek authorities was melted into gold bars and exchanged by the government for various commodities from America. Not believing this story, I attempted to track down that particular transaction and discovered that a quantity of bullion transferred to the United States Gold Depository Vault, room 13A, as bars B877 and B879 was indeed traded by the Greek authorities around the time in question. Mr. Kroisos showed me the pen, the letter, and the book, all of which I found remarkable. Apparently written by a Lady Hestia Evans, the book contained marginal notes of a most unusual type. I may follow up on the story and see if I can find that cave myself.

[The Mythologer's Digest, April 1880]



LORD BYRON

Born in 1788, the famous poet Lord Byron travelled around Greece as a young man and became fascinated with the country. Representatives of the Greek independence movement asked for his aid in their war against the Ottoman Empire. He spent £4,000 of his own money to refit their fleet and travelled to join them, but he died of a fever in Missolonghi in 1824.

The isles of Greece! The isles of Greece!
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose and Phoebus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.

Lord Byron, from *Don Juan*, Canto the Third, 1821

Death of Lord Byron

"PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF
GREECE

"The present days of festivity are converted into
days of bitter lamentation for all. Lord Byron de-
parted this life to-day, about eleven o'clock in the
evening, in consequence of a rheumatic inflammatory
fever, which had lasted for ten days. During the
time of his illness, your general anxiety evinced the
profound sorrow that pervaded your hearts. All
classes, without distinction of sex or age, oppressed by
grief, entirely forgot the days of Easter. The death
of this illustrious personage is certainly a calamitous
event for all Greece, and will be a memorable
one for this city, to which he was so dear, and
which he became a citizen of. As you were informed,
which he was determined to do, that he would visit
this country, and that he would reside here some time,
it is not surprising that he has been so generally
loved."

—

THE PRESENT DAYS OF FESTIVITY ARE CONVERTED INTO
DAYS OF BITTER LAMENTATION FOR ALL.

—

THE DEATH OF LORD BYRON IS A CALAMITOUS
EVENT FOR ALL GREECE, AND WILL BE A MEMORABLE
ONE FOR THIS CITY, TO WHICH HE WAS SO DEAR,

—

AND WHICH HE BECAME A CITIZEN OF.

—

AS YOU WERE INFORMED, WHICH HE WAS DETERMINED
TO DO, THAT HE WOULD VISIT THIS COUNTRY, AND
THAT HE WOULD RESIDE HERE SOME TIME, IT IS NOT
SURPRISING THAT HE HAS BEEN SO GENERALLY
LOVED.

The Homeric Hymn to Zeus

I will sing of Zeus, chiefest among the gods and greatest,
All-seeing, the lord of all, the fulfiller who whispers words
of wisdom to Themis as she sits leaning towards him.
Be gracious, all-seeing son of Cronus, most excellent and great!

O MUSES

Who Sing of a World Long Gone,
Of Mighty Heroes, Olympian Gods,
Of Terrible Monsters and Fabulous Beasts,
Help Me to Tell of these Wonderful Things,
For I Have Come to the Land of Greece
To Speak of Her Myths and Her Mystery.

Lady Hestia Evans, Athens, 1825

*This book is the property of John Oro.
I have come to Greece too - to find out if
any of the power of the gods remains!*

